

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated August 25, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 1-10 and 18-23 are allowed.

Applicants also express their appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephone interview of October 24, 2007. During the interview, the rejection to claims 11-17 was discussed in light of the art cited in the Final Office Action, but no agreement was reached.

Claims 11-17 are rejected the Examiner. With this response claims 11-17 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer. In particular Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of claims 11-17. Claims 1-10 and 18-23 remain pending in this application.

Applicants submit that as amended application contains only the claims indicated as allowable in the previous Office Action, the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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